

GREAT NEWS II: Grace and Hope

ROMANS 5 (P. 785)

Week of July 22, 2012

Message 4

REVIEW:

- Paul is sold out to sharing the gospel and calling people to the obedience it prompts.
- Only the righteous avoid God's wrath (and no one is).
- Righteousness is given to those with faith.

I'm concerned that I made Romans 5 appear more complex than it needed to be. I got myself so wrapped up in some of the details that I fear I may have not communicated the big picture well enough. It's a good thing you are in a Life Group to talk through any confusion!

READ ROMANS 5:1-11

What words does Paul use to refer to the relationship that justified people have with God?

Why does Paul rejoice about his sufferings?

If we face hardships, how can we still be sure God loves us?

On Sunday, I told a story of my dog "sinning" against me and my carpet, how I punished him with a timeout, how I myself cleaned up the mess, and how when the punishment was over and the mess was cleaned up, there was nothing standing in the way of his reconciliation with me unless I chose to stay bitter and hold a grudge.

Does God harbor bitterness toward you? Does God hold a grudge?

What does this statement mean to you? *Our justification means full reconciliation.*

READ ROMANS 5:12-21

On Sunday, I taught that our English Bibles don't communicate something important about the text. Simply put, two words for "gift" are used, and in this context, one of those words means "act of grace" (verse 15a, 16b) and refers to the work of Jesus, and the other means just what our English word "gift" means: something given (15b, 16a, 17).

What was Jesus' act of grace, and how did that compare to Adam's "trespass"?

Based on v. 16, which is more powerful, Adam's sin or Jesus' act of grace?

What gift (see 17) does God give, and how does that compare to the results of Adam's sin?

Consider verse 21, righteousness leads to a place of grace then eventually to what else?

JESUS WORK → OUR FAITH → GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS → STATE OF GRACE → ETERNAL LIFE

TAKE IT HOME

Is there any reason for a Christian to feel there is "unfinished business" between him or her and God? What does it mean to you to live in a state of grace assured of eternal life?

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